Kelkar Committee on Sugar Industry

1255. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kelkar Committee on Sugar Industry has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) the reaction of Government to each of its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) No Committee called "Kelkar Committee on sugar Industry" has been constituted by the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. However, assuming that the reference in the Question is to the report on sugar submitted by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP), of which Dr. Vijay Kelkar is presently the Chairman, it may be mentioned that the BICP submitted phase-I of its Report in July, 1987 followed by phase-II in September, 1988. The levy sugar prices for the sugar year 1987-88 and 1988-89 were determined on the basis of phase-I of the BICP Report. In phase-II of the report, the BICP has recommended payment of incremental levy sugar price of Rs. 47 per quintal for old and uneconomic sugar units. This recommendation is presently under consideration of the Government.

Grievances of cotton growers

1256. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government the redressal of grievances of cotton growers in the country;

(b) what measures are being taken to maintain stability in prices of cotton;

(c) whether Government propose to consult farmers in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (d) With a view to increase the productivity of cotton thereby net income of cotton growers, the centrally sponsored intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented with greater emphasis. Further, the Government is fixing the minimum support price of raw cotton on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). The CACP while recommending minimum support price for cotton consults various cotton interests including farmers. The Cotton Corporation of India has been given the responsibility to provide market support in case market prices of raw cotton fall below the minimum support price fixed by the Government.

Ten projects running behind schedule

1257. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten projects of the Ministry of Steel and Mines are running behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the names of projects and the reasons for running behind the schedule; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?